orders of visual centres, in dealing with neurology of vision. The nomenclature of different types of aphasia is at once illuminating and useful.

The exhaustive dealing on the subject of motor anomalies is all that any student of ophthalmology would desire.

There are 3 sections in the book, namely, (1) Neurology of vision, (2) Motor anomalies of the eye and (3) Optical anomalies of the eye. Each of these sections begins with historical consideration, proceeds with general considerations, aetiological factors, pathogenesis, signs and symptoms, and ends with fairly exhaustive discussions on treatment. The chapter on anomaly of pupillary pathways provides all the information available on this controversial subject.

The last chapter on clinical and optical appliances require special notice. Few students of ophthalmology are fully acquainted with the process of manufacture of spectacle lenses and details of spectacle optics. This chapter lays open these subjects to the reader.

Numerous references in brackets appear throughout the pages. Perhaps exhaustive bibliography at the end of the chapter should have sufficed.

The illustrations and get-up of the book are excellent.

S. C. D.

SEX AND ITS MYSTERIES.—By G. R. Scott, F.Z.S., F.Ph.S. (Eng.). 1948. Torchstream Books, 50, Alexandra Road, London, S.W.19. Pp. 214. Price, 12s. 6d.

SINCE a decade or two it has been realized that the knowledge of sex and sex-science should not be kept a secret but imparted to every young man and woman in their adolescence. The knowledge of sex anatomy and physiology is as valuable and important to an individual as the knowledge of the parts of his body. Locking up the atom-secret of the sex knowledge and its mysteries is considered not only useless but actually harmful, particularly at the present stage of human intelligence and social development.

The present book is in the eighth series of the library on the modern science. It was part published in 1929. The present edition is divided into 22 chapters along with a glossary of the biological and the medical terms used in the text. This glossary was considered necessary since without its aid the text may not be easily understood by a lay reader. The book is written in a very simple language and can be read like a novel. The chapters on the description of the male and the female sex organs, the story of the development and the growth of the embryo, pregnancy and the child birth are very fascinating and full of information. These early chapters form a basis for the layman to follow up the succeeding sections. There are interesting revelations in the chapters on prostitution, birth control, artificial insemination, the prevention of venereal diseases, etc.

J. S. C.

FORENSIC MEDICINE: A TEXTBOOK FOR STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS.—By Sir Sydney Smith, C.B.E., M.D. (Edin.), F.R.C.P. (Edin.), D.P.H., and Frederick Smith Fiddes, O.B.E., M.D. Ninth Edition. 1949. J. and A. Churchill Limited, London. Pp. xii plus 659 with 173 illustrations. Price, 30s.

THIS well-known book has appeared in its ninth edition under a joint authorship after a thorough revision of the text.

New items included are: (1) part played by adenosine triphosphate (ATP) in the contraction of muscles and in rigor mortis. The substance decom-

poses and disappears after death, resulting in the conversion of actomysin of the living muscle into a stiff gel of the dead muscle. (2) Rh Factor. The medicolegal significance of this new blood character is discussed. As the various antisera become more generally available and the basic hypotheses become more firmly established, the tests are bound to become more widely applicable and legally acceptable. (3) BAL. This therapeutic agent is useful in poisoning by (i) arsenic, organic or inorganic, acute or chronic, (ii) mercury, (iii) gold and (iv) possibly all other metals. (4) Addition of certain drugs—pethidine, desomorphine, preparation of Indian hemp, amidone and metopon to the list of the Dangerous Drugs Act.

Other items of special interest in the book are: (1) Diminished responsibility. This midway position between perfect immunity from and full responsibility for crime, is more in accord with the medical opinion than with the McNaughten Rules. (2) Forensic medicine in the East. A remarkable case of suicide by an apparently normal Egyptian attendant at the court of appeal is described. The man ripped open his abdomen with a razor and cut off a portion of the omentum, large intestine and stomach, and then cut off his penis and testes. He spoke rationally to the senior author 10 minutes afterwards and lived for half an hour. Ordinarily and elsewhere such a brutal treatment of the body would go against a presumption of suicide.

One point needs clarification: The book states that an expert can give an opinion on broken spermatozoa. The senior author in another book insists on *at least one unbroken spermatozoon* for a positive answer.

The recent National Health Service has not been included. National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Act which supersedes the Workmen's Compensation Acts has been included. War gases have been excluded. The get-up is good and price reasonable.

An excellent publication.

S. D. S. G.

BOOKS RECEIVED

1. The Deaf in India. Official Organ of the Convention of the Teachers of the Deaf in India, 50, Bondel Road, Ballygunj, Calcutta 19. Vol. II, No. 1, April 1950. Editor A. C. Sen and Associate Editor B. K. Chakravarti.

2. Compost Bulletin. Vol. II, No. 4, December 1949. Issued by the Compost Development Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi.

3. Preparation of Compost Manure from Farm, Village and Town Wastes. By Dr. C. N. Acharya, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi.

4. The United Provinces Veterinary Magazine. Chief Editor H. P. Kapoor, B.Sc., G.B.V.C., c/o U. P. College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, Mathura.

5. Proceedings of the Society for the Study of Industrial Medicine. Vol. 11, No. 1, March 1950. Editor Lieut.-Colonel Najib Khan. The Society for the Study of Industrial Medicine, Jamshedpur, India.

6. The Madras Veterinary College Annual, 1949-50. Editor C. N. Ganapathy, B.A. Associate Editor S. V. Sunder Singh. Vol. VIII, January 1950. Inland Rs. 2. Foreign 2s. 8d. Papa Press, Madras 2.

7. Transactions of the National Institute of Sciences of India. Vol. III, No. 4, pp. 159-209 (6 Plates and 23 Text-figures). A Contribution to the Morphology and Anatomy of the Cyclanthaceae. By K. R. Surange, M.Sc., Research Fellow, University of Lucknow. National Institute of Sciences of India, Delhi. Price Rs. 9-0-0.